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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

VOL. XIII.—NO. 23. WEEKLY EDITION. APRIL 15, 1876.

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HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, April 6, 1876.

SENATE.

The following House bills were passed:

To fix the amount of bail to be given by the Sheriffs of the several counties of this Commonwealth.

Empowering the Councils in the boroughs of this Commonwealth to prescribe by ordinance the salary to be paid out of the borough treasury to the burgesses respectively in lieu of all fees, fines and costs, the manner in which salaries shall be paid, and directing all fees, fines and costs to be paid into the borough treasury.

To repeal an act defining the duty of school directors in the Twenty-third and Twenty-fifth wards of Philadelphia, approved March 21, 1866.

To provide for a proper representation of the mineral resources of Pennsylvania at the Centennial Exhibition.

A spirited discussion ensued on the bill providing for the payment for canvass, transportation and grounds for the purposes of the Centennial Encampment of the Nations' Guard, which finally passed.

The Governor sent the following appointments: notaries public—A. A. Jackson, James S. Todd, Pittsburgh; A. N. Breckenridge, Meadville; Nelson P. Brydon, Sharon.

HOUSE.

The House spent the morning in considering bills on second reading. Among those passed were the following called up by Mr. Graham: Making appropriations for the salaries of officers and employees, and for the improvement of the grounds and buildings of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane at Dixmont.

Making appropriations for the salaries of the officers and for repairs to the Western Penitentiary, and for books and stationery for prisoners.

The bill to regulate the sale of refined petroleum used for burning or illuminating purposes was indefinitely postponed.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The House reassembled at three o'clock. The act to repeal an act to extend the provisions of an act to prohibit issuing licenses in Armstrong, Potter, Indiana and Perry counties to the borough of West Newton and Mount Pleasant in the county of Westmoreland, so far as relates to the borough of Mount Pleasant, passed second reading.

The House then, in Committee of the Whole, resumed consideration of the General appropriation bill on second reading. The question was on the adoption of section 10, appropriating $500,000 for expenses of the Legislature. Mr. Reighard moved to amend by substituting that the State Treasurer be directed to pay the necessary expenses of the Legislature, etc., without expressing any specific sum. Agreed to.

Mr. Reighard moved further to amend by adding a provision that the State Treasurer be directed to pay the necessary expenses of the Legislative Committee to investigate the affairs of the Reading National Bank, the Auditor State Treasury, the Reform School at Morganza, and House of Refuge at Philadelphia.

Messrs. Leigh and Gehr opposed the amendment on constitutional grounds, which prohibited members from receiving any other compensation than that allowed in their mileage.

Mr. Mitchell opposed the payment of the committee to investigate the State Treasury in a lengthy speech, and cited numerous authorities in support of his position.

Mr. Hall offered the following amendment, which was agreed to: Provided, that nothing herein contained shall be held to give any compensation whatsoever to any member, and the item "expenses," as herein mentioned, shall be held to include only such items of expenditure as shall be proven by vouchers duly certified to the satisfaction of the Auditor General and the State Treasurer.

On the question of striking out the payment of expenses of all commissioners, yeas 31, nays —, disagreed to; the bill as amended then passed second reading.

The friends of the Stay law, after caucusing, moved a reconsideration of the vote by which it was defeated, and it comes up again for final passage next week. Mr. Zorn moved to reconsider, Mr. Irwin and Speaker Patterson voting with him.

The supplementary act to provide for the better security of life and property from damages from coal oil and petroleum was indefinitely postponed.

The act conferring additional powers upon the several boroughs of the Commonwealth passed second reading.

Mr. Plummer offered the following:

That in order to facilitate the business of the House and aid the committee appointed to inquire whether there has been any misconduct on the part of any member of the House in violation of sections 29 and 30 of article III of the Constitution, in connection with the Boom bill, any person having any charge to prefer against any member of the House or officer of the House in connection with said bill shall do so in writing over his own signature, on or before Monday next, to the Speaker, which charge shall be read before the House and referred to said committee, and if no charge be so preferred on or before Monday next, the committee to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

Mr. Huhn offered the following:

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Adjourned.

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Mr. Buck, of Cambria county, was examined and stated that he had been improperly approached in Boyon's Hotel, about two weeks ago by a person, who stated that the Boom bill was an unjust bill, and that there was money in it if he would vote against it; that he would receive $400 if he would vote against it, and two hundred if he dodged. When asked who had approached him, he answered "Thornton."

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Mr. Warner was also approached and offered $400 if he would vote against the bill, and $200 if he would dodge it. He stated that he was approached by Gentner, of Philadelphia.

Mr. Conrod, of Berks county—I was approached by a member; told him I was in favor of the bill; told me there was some money in voting against the bill. Said I would have $200 in hand and $200 additional if the bill should be defeated. He stated that the person who approached him was Senator Boyer, of Clearfield.

There is much talk and excitement here over the affair, and any member who should be proven guilty will no doubt be roughly expelled. The committee sit again to-morrow, when further exposures will follow and some rich and racy developments may be looked for.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., April 7, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate bill providing for the classification of real estate for purposes of taxation, and for the appointment of Assessors in cities of the second class, was reported affirmatively.

The following House bills were passed finally:

To provide for the erection of watering-troughs for the use of horses and cattle on the public roads of this Commonwealth.

To prevent fraud and fraudulent practices upon or by hotel keepers and boarding-house keepers.

Adjourned until Tuesday evening.

HOUSE.

On motion of Mr. Gorham, a concurrent resolution was adopted by the House relating House bill No. 6 from the Governor.

A number of local bills were considered.

Eulogistic resolutions on the death of Mr. Good, the member from Philadelphia, were read and speeches were made by Messrs. Huhn, Hall and Jackson, after which the House, out of respect to the deceased, adjourned until Monday afternoon.

The Boom Investigation.

The Committee of Investigation, in reference to the charges of bribery connected with the Boom bill, lately appointed by the House in a semi-jocular manner, is likely to prove much more serious than was at first anticipated, judging from the developments made last night. A profound sensation was created by the testimony of certain members. The cloven foot of Peter was shown most conclusively to the detriment of certain members of the Legislature, Allegheny county by no means going free.

This morning a deeper interest than on any former occasion was manifested in this matter, as evidenced by the introduction and adoption of a resolution by Mr. Huhn, asking for additional members of the Investigating Committee, and a discrimination in their appointment in favor of those who had voted against the bill.

The committee will hold another meeting this afternoon.

Mr. Fincher offered a resolution that the committee be instructed to proceed with all dispatch, which was tabled, on motion of Mr. Loftus.

Mr. Boyer testified to the following before the committee this morning:

Senator Boyer, sworn—I know of no corrupt means being used to influence the passage of the Boom bill. I know of no money being offered to procure votes for or against the bill; had a conversation with Andre about the stay law, during which Andre said he understood money was being used to influence the passage of the Boom bill; I told him I had heard rumors about money, but knew nothing; had substantially the same conversation with Conrad, of Berks; I told Conrad I had a playful conversation with Andre; I supported the bill; met Andre again and he asked me "How about the Boom bill?" I said, "Boom stock has gone up;" that $400 was being offered for absentees; Andre then asked where this money could be had; I told him I didn't know and left him; never said I would assure him $400 if he would vote against the bill; I never stopped Andre in the rotunda to speak about the Boom bill; never offered Andre or Conrad or any person else anything to vote against the bill; Andre did ask Conrad how he felt on the Boom bill; no lumber men nor any boom men ever offered me any valuable thing to influence my action on the Boom bill; never received a letter or message from any member of the House in violation of sections 29 and 30 of article III of the Constitution, in connection with the Boom bill, any person having any charge to prefer against any member of the House or officer of the House in connection with said bill shall do so in writing over his own signature, on or before Monday next, to the Speaker, which charge shall be read before the House and referred to said committee, and if no charge be so preferred on or before Monday next, the committee to be discharged from the further consideration of the subject.

Mr. Huhn offered the following:

WHEREAS, A committee of investigation on the passage of House No. 476 has been appointed totally from those members who voted for the passage of the bill; and

WHEREAS, In order that a fair and full investigation of the means used to pass said bill, said committee should be composed of members in part of those who voted against the passage of the same; therefore,

Resolved, That the number of said committee be increased to nine members, the additional members to be appointed from those who voted against the passage of said bill.

The House refused to suspend the rules to consider the resolutions, and they lay over one day.

Adjourned.

The act appropriating $55,000 to defray the expenses of the military to attend the Centennial passed finally and goes to the Governor for his signature.

The committee appointed by the House to investigate members of the House in regard to improper means used to secure the passage of the Boom bill, held an evening session, when some fifty members were examined under oath. Nothing important was elicited till Backus took the stand, and stated that Herdic, at the Keystone Hotel, asked him if any members were going to vote conscientiously against his bill, and if so he could convince them in ten minutes how to vote. (Herdic) was right. He also wished to know any members who could be influenced by "my money." Wise, of Greene county, swore he was approached in a mysterious way in his seat in the House, and told that Herdic wished to see him. He stated that he ignored the matter, but offer promptly, and stated then that he thought any member should be shot who would sell out his constituency. The party who approached him marked the amount on a book which he could get if he would vote against the Boom bill. When asked who the member was who approached him, he promptly answered, Thornton, of Allegheny.

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BOARD OF PARDONS.

Sixty Applications Heard — List of Pardons Granted and Refused.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., April 6, 1876.

The Board of Pardons have been sitting since Tuesday morning, having three sessions a day. Over sixty applications were heard and considered. The following were recommended for pardon: George Maguire, Philadelphia, larceny; Joseph F. Feichtner, Philadelphia, assault; John Yunker, Allegheny, receiving stolen goods; Robert K. Piper, Franklin, shooting with intent to kill; Aaron Briggs, Wyoming, larceny; Charles Thackara, Philadelphia, larceny; Sebastian Searies, Union, larceny; Daniel Schaeffer, Berks, larceny; Toner McAlister, Centre, receiving stolen goods; Philip Flanigan, Philadelphia, homicide; James Gumbo, Dauphin, false pretenses; Lorenzo Ward, Allegheny, misdemeanor; David Hall, Allegheny, assault; John McJeil, Clinton, robbery, John W. McWilliams, Allegheny, larceny; Jonathan Hawkins, Bucks, burglary; John Brennan, Schuylkill, assault and battery with intent to kill; Israel J. Barry, Allegheny, burglary; William McFaw, Crawford, horse stealing; John Madden, Allegheny, misdemeanor in unlawfully wounding Martin Dougherty; Thomas Hickey, Centre, murder in the second degree; Samuel McClintock, Philadelphia, assault and battery and burglary; John O'Hara, Mercer, shooting and wounding with intent to murder; Edward L. Hughes, Philadelphia, larceny; Oliver W. Reid, Philadelphia, abortion.

The death sentence of Charles Laribee, of Venango county, who killed Lewis Williams on the 7th of November, 1873, was recommended to be commuted to imprisonment for life. Numerous applications were held under advisement. There will be no meeting of the Board in May, as it adjourned to the first Tuesday in June.

CASUALTIES.

Fatal Boiler Explosion—Three Persons Killed and Several Injured—Destruction to Property.

BINGHAMTON, April 8.—A terible explosion occurred at the boiler shops of Shapley & Wells, in this city, at 7:30 o'clock this evening. Charles Carter, foreman of the boiler shop, was testing a sixty-horse power locomotive boiler, built for the new Oswego steamboat, when it exploded with terrific force. It was lying on the sidewalk on Hawley street, in front of the shop, where some boys were playing and other people passing along. Charles Carter, John Malony, the caulker, and Charles Gauber, a boy, were instantly killed, and Fred. Schaefer, a jeweler, and Samuel Ingraham, a boy, were seriously injured. Ocnsenbin's injuries are about the head, and may prove fatal. The Ingraham boy's eyes are destroyed, but it is thought he may live. Several persons were slightly injured. Large pieces of the boiler were blown in all directions. The fire-box was blown into the air, and fell a distance of 200 yards from the place of the explosion, crushing through the roof of the storehouse of Bartlett Brothers' sash and door manufactory. The boiler door was blown south about three hundred yards. Fragments are lying all about, and the buildings are blazed in all directions for several hundred yards. The boiler was nine feet long, forty-two inches in diameter, and contained 147 two-inch flues. The fire-box was four and a half feet long. It was to have been put into the steamboat next week.

WASHINGTON.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6, 1876.

Consolidation of Revenue Districts.

The House Committee on Appropriations having decided to reduce, by consolidation, the districts of internal revenue from two hundred and nine, the present number, to one hundred and five, it is proposed to make a compromise on one hundred and sixty-six. Both Commissioner Pratt and Deputy Commissioner Rodgers agree that the success which attended the consolidation a year ago would now justify another step in the same direction. A plan of consolidation has been determined upon, and will in a day or two be transmitted to the Senate Committee on Appropriations, and will by them be incorporated as a substitute for the House provisions on the same subject, and will doubtless become a law. The following is the proposed consolidation for Pennsylvania and West Virginia:

The State of Pennsylvania to be divided into nine districts, the first district to be composed of the counties of Bucks, Montgomery, Lancaster and Delaware, and the city of Philadelphia, the collector's office to be at Philadelphia; the second of the counties of Lehigh, Berks, Schuylkill and Lebanon, the collector's office at Reading; the third of the counties of Northampton, Carbon, Monroe, Pike, Wayne, Luzerne, Susquehanna, Bradford, W

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1876.

TILDEN is said to be quite confident of receiving the Democratic Presidential nomination; and really it would seem to accord with the eternal fitness of things that "Soapy" Sam should be the chosen of the great unwashed.

THE foreign exports from Boston last week, amounted to $834,835, against $516,235 for the corresponding week last year. The total value of the foreign exports since the first of January aggregate $10,264,657, against $10,141,149 for the relating period of 1875.

THE proposed consolidation of the internal revenue districts, and the consequent inevitable mustering out of a number of the collectors, has already set the latter moving in the matter, each being specially desirous of retaining possession of his own official head.

THE Ohio river gets $270,000 of the amount appropriated by the House River and Harbor bill. The "creeks and troutstreams" of West Virginia, as the New York *Times* picturesquely puts it, get $495,000. West Virginia is the home of the Chairman of the committee.

A BOSTON judge, last week, remarked of the present bankrupt law that it was "used as a scoop to gather up the property for the benefit of the bankrupt." Well, an excellent way to make bankruptcies less frequent would be to impose the severest penalty whenever frauds were proven. It is to be feared that so no courts are not wholly blameless in this matter.

THE official count of the census returns of Philadelphia was completed on Monday. The total shows a population of 817,448, against 674,022 in the year 1870, being an increase of 143,422. The number of males over twenty-one years of age is 225,070, and of females 246,634; the number under twenty-one being, respectively, 171,908 males and 172,746 females. It is believed to be the most accurate census of that city ever taken.

THE number of immigrants arriving at New York during the first three months of this year was 9,018, a decrease of 3,597 as compared with the same period last year. The general depression of business in this country has had a effect of causing a constant decrease in the number of emigrants coming here, until now there are at least fifty per cent. less steerage passengers leaving Europe than there were five years ago.

DIPETHERIA is a comparatively new disease, and is now said not to have appeared until after the discovery of petroleum. An eminent Connecticut physician attributes the extreme prevalence of the malady in parts of New York city within the range of odors from the kerosene oil factories on Long Island, principally to this cause. The theory looks somewhat plausible, but the question is at least of sufficient importance to warrant a through scientific investigation.

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THE foreign commerce of New York, last week, was: Merchandise imports, $7,369,322; produce exports, $4,801,360, and specie exports, $979,096. The total imports since the first of January have been $94,422,419, against $106,876,291 last year, and $121,070,692 in 1874. The exports of produce were $64,813,549, against $63,601,149 in 1875, and $73,805,997 in 1874, and the total exports of specie foot up $14,473,745, against $15,816,273 last year, and $9,151,146 in 1874.

DURING a Republican meeting held in the town of Camilla, Georgia, some six years ago, the place was invaded by a small army of negroes, who fired and fired indiscriminately and without any other provocation other than the natural antipathy of Georgia Democrats, into the crowd of defenseless negroes. It was notorious at the time that one B. F. BRIMBURY was the leader of this banditti, and that the ammunition and such firearms as he could furnish were obtained at his store. It appears that about a year ago this man was appointed a deputy collector of revenue in that very district. Of course it is easy to surmise that the facts might not have been known at the Treasury. That the surmise was correct once taken up by the leading Republicans of the district and denounced in unmeasured terms. The facts and proofs thereof were laid before the Secretary of the Treasury, who, it is alleged, declined to remove BRIMBURY, admitting the facts, but claiming that the incumbent was now a good and active Republican. Possibly there may have been no underlying reason for such action, but it looks a little significant that the collector of that district, with headquarters at Macon, is a Kentucky man named CLARK, a former neighbor of BRISTOW'S, and that his brother is also a special agent of the Treasury in California At all events, murderers of unoffending negroes are neither the stuff of which "good and active" Republicans are made, nor the material of which revenue agents ought to be.

A RESOLUTION was recently introduced in the Lower House of Congress by a Democratic member, and adopted, directing the Committee on Ways and Means to inquire into and report upon the expediency of authorizing the refunding of the direct war tax on lands collected under the act of Congress of August 5, 1861, imposing a tax of $20,000,000 upon the various States, under which nearly $16,000,000 were collected. An examination of the resolution shows the rebel cat in the meal-tub. The law provides that any State or Territory might assume the duty of collecting the tax and pay its proportion thereof to the National Treasury, in default of which it became the duty of the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, to appoint commissioners to make the necessary assessments and collections. All but Colorado and the eleven rebel States assumed the responsibility, and paid their quota, except New York, Wisconsin, Kansas, California, Colorado, Washington Territory, Utah and Oregon, from which there is a small unadjusted balance due the United States, amounting in the aggregate to $1,237,317. The Washington correspondent of the Buffalo *Commercial Advertiser* states in the following tabulated form how the accounts stand with the eleven ex-rebel States:

States.	Quota.	Uncoll'c'ed.
Virginia	961,140	609,396
North Carolina	576,194	173,144
South Carolina	393,570	149,869
Georgia	592,167	292,167
Florida	77,522	71,027
Alabama	534,313	520,319
Mississippi	413,084	343,137
Louisiana	380,886	75,022
Texas	353,016	197,055
Arkansas	261,886	102,983
Tennessee	669,498	284,654
Total	$5,153,886	$2,661,776

RECAPITULATION.

Balance due from rebel States	$1,237,317
Balance due Government rebel States	2,661,776
Total	$3,899,093

In 1865 the collection of the tax was suspended until January 1, 1869, but no further attempt has been made to renew the collecting. The design of the measure is not only to save the ex-rebel States from the unpaid amount of $2,661,776, but also to pay back the $5,153,886 already collected from them. The Democratic majority in Congress cannot repudiate the national debt, but it can at least do its best to save the South from bearing any share of the burden incurred by the slaveholders' rebellion. And it is doing its best, with a will.

Connellsville's New Police Force.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

CONNELLSVILLE, PA., April 11th, 1876.

We had a change in the police of our town to-day, and quite a sensation has been created to-night, as our old corner loafers are required to disperse and make the sidewalk free for passage. We hope our new police will continue to exhibit the energy displayed to-night, and that, through their efforts, the day is not far distant when our town will be a quiet and orderly as any in the "United Kingdom."

From the above, we do not wish your readers to think that we are outlaws in any way, for we are not, as it will show that we are a quiet and law-abiding people. But the days of "No. 6" are passed and gone, and we are now looking forward to a peaceful and happy future, and our new police can rest assured that they have the sympathy and support of all our law-abiding citizens. MAX.

There appeared last week in the obituary columns of the Philadelphia *Ledger* notices of the deaths of sixteen persons—five men and eleven women—who had live to or beyond the advance age of eighty years, to wit; Joshua Batty, 80; Thomas R. Hanmersley, 80; Charlotte Holcomb, 80; Sarah Vogel, 80; Sarah Waterman, 80; Sarah Hamilton, 81; Ebenezer Hance, 81; Moses Abrams, 82; Ann Horgan, 82; Elizabeth Myers, 83; Ann P. Thalbert, 84; Ann Painter, 86; Sarah Morrison, 87; Ellen Mahoney, 88; Isaac Warner, 88, and Rebecca Keim, 90.

A ROMANCE—PERHAPS.

An Elopement from Oil City—The Bride a Girl of Fourteen, and an Heiress.

From the Titusville *Herald* of yesterday we get the following particulars of Oil City's latest sensation:

Oil City has just developed another case of elopement, more remarkable in some respects than the noted Haldeman-Marston escapade. The story is as follows: During the winter a Brooklyn Miss, of fourteen years, named Frazier, has been visiting Oil City relatives, who board with a family named Whitfield, South Side. Miss Frazier is an orphan, described as comely and intelligent, though still wearing dress s of a length becoming to one of her years. When she will have attained her majority, she will inherit money and property to the extent of $50,000. In the family with whom she and her friends board is a son, aged twenty-four, who, after learning of her circumstances, and having the inside track as it were, won the affections of the child heiress, planned an elopement and marriage, which was cianchemently consummated last week. It is needless to say that the friends of Miss Frazier are much grieved at the *denouement*, and attach blame to themselves for not exercising a closer surveillance over their young visitor whose head was turned by the words and pleasing address of her wily suitor, who was engaged to a Miss Rivers, the day of the nuptials having been fixed and the *trosseau* of the expectant bride made. Miss Rivers, learning that Whitfield had played her false, turned pale, placed her hand on her left side, closed her eyes and fell in a swoon. Very romantic. But she has recovered—will not pine away and die; on the contrary she has announced her intention to bring a suit for damages, and will no doubt exert herself to make a furnace on earth for Whitfield. That he is unprincipled, is illustrated in his treatment of Miss Rivers, and that he is a shrewd calculator may be inferred from the hand that he played with Mrs. Whitfield *nee* Miss Frazier. Such affairs have often occurred in the past, and are bound to be repeated so long as an arrow remains in Cupid's quiver.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Chicago is on a strike—against its political bummers.

The Aryan versus the Mongol is the great litigation now occupying the Pacific mind.

It is intimated that Disraeli is looking upon the wine when it is red pretty frequently, these days.

The grain exports of San Francisco during the last nine months amounted in value to $13,479,399.

Silver trade dollars are being driven out of circulation in California on account of the discount on them.

Robert Lincoln, son of President Lincoln, is talked of in Illinois for Republican candidate for Secretary of State.

The remains of yet another great prehistoric city have just been discovered on the banks of the Caspian Sea.

"Richard *H.* Dana was never before the mast in a whaler." But he caught a whaling from the Senate, nevertheless.

The *Shoe and Leather Reporter* strongly urges a curtailment in production as the only remedy against ruinously low prices.

Chicago boasts that it has forty-four firms whose capital succeeds $1,000,000 each. How much of this is cash isn't stated.

New York city is getting ready to toady to Dom Pedro. It is to be hoped he will refuse the show and vulgarity of a public reception.

The "dare-to-do-right" temperance wave is rolling throughout New England, and large reform clubs are being organized everywhere.

The colored people of Washington will dedicate a new statue to Abraham Lincoln on Friday next, the anniversary of his assassination.

The harness makers contemplate holding a national convention at an early day for the purpose of forming a mutual benefit association.

The Hadley, Mass., girls put out the last fire in the seminary in handsome style, and kindled flames in many manly breasts thereby.

The Government life-saving service will be introduced on the lakes the present season, and promises to become as efficient as on the sea-board.

A large cast-iron chain of thirty-eight links, to represent the thirty-eight States, has been manufactured for the Centennial by a Philadelphia firm.

Ether drunkards are a product of England. An official report has just been made of two deaths caused by drinking it, and the practice is spreading.

Rather than have a libel suit an Iowa editor made an affidavit that he had never willingly told the truth in his life. Dana is now trying to hire him.

The tribes on the west coast of Africa have been fighting for three years past for the possession of an African Helen, with the uncroanitic name of Mokki.

The Centennial managers will not open the exhibition daily in the evenings. They state that they "are afraid to undertake the expense of illuminating the immense buildings."

The bill authorizing the establishment of a United States mail route from Kearney Junction to Custer City has passed both branches of Congress, and is now a law. The service will be put on immediately.

Good out of evil. The pumice of the late volcanic eruptions in Iceland makes the grass grow where it never grew before, and the Icelanders who were threatened with famine are found flourishing on fish.

The "bummer" Mayor of Chicago is the agent at that point of the United States Express Company, and the merchants and business men of the city have resolved not to patronize the company unless it discharges him.

The business of the Bank of England is conducted at an enormous expense, and yet, at its last half yearly meeting it declared a dividend for the half year of 4½ per cent., and then had a balance on hand of over fifteen millions of dollars.

The steamship line which runs direct from Liverpool to Philadelphia has, because of its being a direct line, taken away from the New York lines the transportation to the Exhibition of all the British manufactures, as well as some others.

The eighth annual report of the United States geological and geographical survey of the Territories, under the direction of Professor F. V. Hayden, is about to be issued. It will form one of the most important and interesting documents yet produced by the survey.

The sales in Stewart's wholesale and retail stores, New York, are said to have aggregated in one year the enormous sum of $5,000,000. Eighteen acres are devoted to retail dry goods purposes, and 2,000 employees were in the pay of the late merchant prince.

PERSONAL.

"My daughter lives in a little cottage on the estate of Mr. Sartoris," says Mrs. Grant, "and goes over to the large house for her meals. So she has all the pleasures and none of the cares of housekeeping."

More notes bearing the forged signature of Victor Emanuel have been discovered. They were circulated not only in Italy but in other countries, and two were traced to Paris. It is said that one of the forgers is found to be the King's own son, one of his children by the Countess Mirafiora. He is an officer in the army and has been arrested.

A paragraph having been recently circulated that ex-Senator Nye's family are in destitute circumstances, the Carson (Nevada) *Appeal* says that it must be a mistake, he having no family, as his wife has been dead several years, his daughter married to a wealthy New York merchant, and his only son, Charles, settled in Washington.

It turns out to be true that the idea of an imperial title was the Queen's own, and that she not only suggested but forced it on Mr. Disraeli as a public measure. Why the Queen wanted to be Empress, too, is no longer a secret. *Vanity Fair* comes out flatly and says that it was with the object of giving "the royal princes and princesses a brevet rank of Imperial Highness."

A Connecticut expressman's account of his experience in a recent railroad accident: "I was pitched against the safe. I scrambled up with the other fellows, and then I missed something, and exclaimed, 'All is lost.' 'What's lost?' inquired the brakeman. 'Why my cart. I always thought that I would lose one of 'em, some day.' Then I looked up and saw it hanging from a hook where my head was plunged, and then I reached out and unhung it, and, by thunder, it wasn't my car, but my canvas express bag."

"Jennie June" sends this interesting intelligence to the Baltimore *American*: "It is rumored that Miss Janette Bennett, who is a pious Catholic, and a very sweet and lovely girl, will retire to a convent preparatory to taking the veil, when her brother marries, unless he can influence her to reconsider her determination. In case she does not, her fortune, which is large, would all go to the church. Mr. Bennett is, however, devotedly attached to his sister, and will not consent to the separation, if it can be avoided."

PENNSYLVANIA OIL REGIONS.

Daily Average Production of Petroleum—New Wells Going Down and New Rigs Going Up—Unsuccessful Ventures—Sudden Death of a Woman—Meeting in Butler—Oil Tank Struck by Lightning—Probable Loss $275,000—Railroad Trains Delayed.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

PETROLIA, April 12, 1876.

The market yesterday opened at $1 94¼ and declined to $1 88¾. There is no appreciable cause for this recession of prices, and it is generally regarded as a speculative movement. Certainly nothing in regard to stocks on hand or the rate of production justifies it.

The production of this district, last month, was less than 13,000 barrels a day, a decline of about 460 barrels from the preceding month. The daily average production of the entire region, including the Upper creek, Warren, McKean and Cattaraugus counties, was about 22,700 barrels, an increase only of 171 barrels a day over the month previous.

Of the entire number of producing wells in the counties of Armstrong and Butler, 1,391, the daily average production is only about nine barrels per well.

The number of wells completed in this district last month was thirty-five, being an increase of six over the previous month. The average daily yield, per well, of these new strikes was between fifteen and sixteen barrels. Among them one only reached a hundred barrels, the Richard Jennings well on the Amos Steele farm, located toward the eastern end of the fourth sand cross-belt.

Four of the wells that came in during the month produced from forty to fifty barrels each. Seven ranged from twenty to twenty-five; five were less than five barrels, four dry holes, and the balance ranged at ten barrels or a little over.

Among the unsuccessful ventures were the Brooks & Mercer well on the Banks farm, the Columbia Oil Company's, on the Sutton farm, one well on the Leonard and another on the Milford farms.

Among late strikes is H. L. Taylor & Co.'s well on the Fletcher farm, which has been reported at a hundred barrels, doing actually from twenty to twenty-five barrels.

Much interest is manifested, both by the bulls and the bears, in the market, as to the Cross well on the Humes farm, which struck the sand yesterday morning. It is located on the third sand belt below St. Joe, and seven miles from Millerstown. It is very remarkable that so much interest should be felt in it, as it opens up no new territory. Within a few rods of it is another well, which has been pumping about fifteen barrels a day for nearly three years, that has been entirely overlooked by many persons, as it was struck at the time of the fourth sand belt excitement, when a well was not considered worth mentioning that was not flowing some hundreds of barrels a day. This Cross well commenced filling with oil when the sand was struck, and will probably be good for a twenty to twenty-five barrel pumper.

Developments continue quite active in this district, not confined to any particular locality, but generally distributed from above Parkers to Bear Run below St. Joe. In Armstrong and Butler counties seventy-one rigs are now up or in process of building, and ninety five wells drilling. Of the latter, three only have been completed this month than came in last month. Among those drilling are some of the wildcat species, which promise more definitely to prove the existence of immense oil lakes, to add largely to the stocks of crude on hand.

On the cross belt, Nesbitt & Lardin have two wells drilling and two rigs going upon the Jacob Barnhart farm.

On the S. Wilds farm, Richard Jennings has a rig up and another building.

Two wells are drilling on the Issac Kepple farm.

On the G. Barnhart farm one well is drilling and two rigs are up or nearly completed.

On the third sand belt, Richard Jennings is drilling two wells on the Gould farm, and J. Overy is putting down another.

Three wells are going down and two rigs are up on the P. Duffy faim.

On the Conway farm three wells are drilling.

H. L. Taylor & Co. have two rigs up, and R. Waugh another on the J. J. Barnhart farm.

Four wells are drilling on the M. Banks farm, and two rigs up.

On the W. Campbell farm two wells are drilling and two new rigs built.

Six wells are drilling and one rig up on the Levi Gibson farm.

On Tuesday evening the constable at Parker City was taking two women to jail, and as they were crossing the bridge one of them fell. The officer carried her into the toll office, supposing she had fainted, but she shortly expired. An inquest was held yesterday, Squire Wilhelm, and the physicians examined testified that she died from heart disease. Her name was Jennie Lee, and she came from Parnassus a few days since. She was buried by the Poor Commissioners.

This evening the citizens of Butler have a meeting in reference to the extension of the Parker and Karns City Railroad. The business of the road is crowding the management at present, and both passengers and freight traffic larger than in some time past.

This morning about half past eight o'clock, in a thunder storm, the light ning struk an iron tank, containing 1,000 barrels of crude oil, about a mile below Parkers, on the side of the Allegheny Valley Railroad track. The oil ignited, and, as dense volums of black smoke rolled up the hilsides, the fire rapidly communicated with two other tanks of oil, and a stream of the burning liquid flowed down into the river, a half mile below. Every bank, covering the track for a distance of about three hundred feet. There are two other tanks in the vicinity of those burning, which will probably be destroyed. The five tanks are said to contain about a hundred thousand barrels of oil, which would entail a loss of nearly $200,000 on the oil and $75,000 on the tanks.

In consequence of the fire, the passenger trains on the Allegheny Valley Railroad had to transfer their passengers, who had to walk up over the hill to avoid the flames. Of course there will be some temporary delay, but passenger trains will probably run through without transfer by the morning, as the railroad officials are prepared to fix the track as soon as possible.

This fire affords another argument in favor of a law requiring the owners of oil tanks to make some provision in regard to ditches, or locality of tanks, whereby the property of others may not be endangered in case of a stroke of lightning making a large reduction in stocks.

DOT.

THE HOUSEKEEPER.

CARVING.

Until within a few years ago the ceremony of carving was always performed by the mistress of the house. In the last century this task must have required no small amount of bodily strength, for the lady was not only to invite—that is, urge and tease her guests to eat more than humane throats conveniently could swallow—but to carve every dish, when chosen, with her own hands. The grater the lady, the mor indispensable the duty; each joint was carried up to be operated on in its turn by her, and her alone. The peers and knights on either hand were so far from being bound to offer their assistance that the very master of the house himself posted, opposite to her, might not offer his assistance. His department was to push the bottle after dinner. As for the crowd of guests, the most inconsiderable among them—the curate or subaltern, or squire's younger brother—if suffered through her neglect, to help himself to a slice of mutton placed before him, would have chewed it in bitterness and gone home with indigestion, and resolved to give a wrong vote at the next election. There were many professional carving-masters, who taught young ladies scientifically. In the letters of Lady Mary Montague she mentions having taken lessons three times a week that she might be perfect when called upon to preside at her father's table. In order to perform her functions without interruption, she was forced to eat her own dinner alone an hour or two beforehand.—*New England Homestead*

ABOUT BUTTER.

It takes no longer to set a table neatly than it does to set it carelessly. Now in regard to butter. We have it upon our table three times a day, therefore I think it is important that it should look inviting, not as we so frequently see it, in both large and small broken pieces, surrounded by unmistakable crumbs, but in case it is taken hurriedly out of the jar or tub. When we purchase butter, the better plan is to take out the whole, put in two or ten pounds, and work it over in a wooden bowl into small rolls. Then you will always have a neat looking roll of butter to set upon the table, a smooth, round slice, instead of a "jumbled mass," as my mother called an unsightly butter plate.—*Mrs. Mojames.*

CHOCOLATE PUDDING.

Three-quarters of a cupful of chocolate grated to one quart of milk which has not been skimmed. Let it boil; then set it to cool. Beat until very light and thick the yolks of four eggs, reserving the same number of whites, with which to make a meringue. Sweeten with a half a pound of white sugar, and flavor delicately with vanilla. Add to the cooled milk, and turn into a deep dish, and let it bake slowly, but not till overdone. To make the meringue, beat up the whites until they will stand alone; add by degrees four tablespoonfuls of sifted pulverized sugar, and flavor with a little vanilla or lemon juice. When the chocolate portion is again cool, heap up the meringue upon it and brown slightly by holding over it the red hot lid of an oven, or something of the sort. This quantity of pudding suffices for about six persons.

FRENCH CREAM CAKE.

Beat three eggs and one cup of sugar together thoroughly; add two tablespoonfuls of cold water; stir in a tablespoonful of baking powder into a cup and a half of flour; sift the flour in, stirring all the while in one direction. Bake in two thin cakes; split the cakes while hot and fill in the cream prepared in the following manner. To a pint of new milk, add two tablespoonfuls of corn starch, one beaten egg, one half cup of sugar, stir while cooking, and when hot put in a piece of butter the size of an egg; flavor the cream lightly with lemon, vanilla or pineapple.

NEW REMEDIES FOR BURNS OR SCALDS.

The following is one of the best applications we know of in case of burns or scalds, more especially when a large surface is denuded of the skin: Take one dram of finely-powdered alum and mix thoroughly with the whites of two eggs and one teacup of fresh lard; spread on a cloth and apply to the parts burned. It gives almost instant relief from pain, and, by excluding the air, prevents inflammatory action. The application should be changed at least once a day.

GERMAN TOAST.

Cut thick slices of bread—baker's is the best—dip them each side in milk enough to soften, then dip in beaten egg; put in a pan with just sufficient butter to fry; fry till brown as an omelet, then serve well sprinkle with white sugar. Two eggs would be sufficient to dip nearly a dozen slices of bread. Like pancakes, the hotter the toast the better.

A DISH FOR CONVALESCENTS.

Virginia oysters—Let them drain through a colender and lay them on a towel to dry; have some butter in a frying-pan very hot; only a little butter; put in oysters; after a few minutes turn them as soon as they swell out or the gills turn up take out; put on a hot plate. Delicious.

STEAMED APPLES.

Pare and halve good sour apples, remove the cores, and place them in a steamer over a kettle of boiling water; when tender serve with sugar and cream, and imagine they are peaches.

KNIFE POLISH.

Charcoal powder will be found a very good thing to give knives a first-rate polish.

POLITICAL.

State.

Vote, members, vote with care,
A two hundred pile from boss Petairs;
The same is yours if you vote "no" square;
Ditto likewise if you kill that air;
It counts just the same if you leave the chair;
All in the presence of the bold Speakaire.
—*Harrisburg Chronicle.*

R. B. Brown, of Clarion, is again a candidate for the Democratic nomination for State Senator.

Hon. John M. Thompson, of Butler, is prominently mentioned in connection with the Republican Congressional nomination in the Butler, Mercer and Crawford district.

Sergeant-at-Arms Beamish is the leading candidate for the Democratic nomination for State Senator in the Twentieth district, Lycoming, to be promoted.—*Scranton Republican.*

An honest Dutchman was heard to define his position thus: "Well, I don't know 'bout dem gandidates, but vicheter de Republican party puts up, I votes for dot man —und dot's Hartranh."

The press of the country, and of New York city particularly, agree in leaving Hartranft out in their calculations of the chances of the various persons who have been suggested for the Republican nomination to the Presidency. There are not many things more uncertain than the action of the convention, and no estimate of probabilities has any great value. But we are inclined to believe that Hartranft is quite as far from nomination by the convention as either Hayes or Conkling, and it is not at all improbable that he may be accepted as a compromise candidate if the friends of Hayes and Blaine succeed in forcing the rejection of one or the other of these two candidates. He would be infinitely stronger than Conkling as the nominee of the party.—*Philadelphia Bulletin.*

The Norristown *Herald* discusses the nominations for Congress and the Legislature to be made in Montgomery county this year. State Senator Yeakel, in consequence of ill health, will not be a candidate again, and it is too early to propose a successor, though several names have been mentioned. For the House, some of the five Democratic members may be for re-election, but the *Herald* asserts that with a strong Republican ticket their chances would be assured. As to member of Congress, Mr. Wood's prompt and faithful attention to the daily business demanded by the good opinion of all his constituents, and his renomination is regarded as a matter of course. The cordial concurrence of Bucks county in his renomination expresses this.

Commenting on the resolution pledging the Pennsylvania delegation to General Hartranft, adopted by the Harrisburg Convention, the *Blair County Radical* says: The resolution meant exactly what it says, and the Republican party, by it, say exactly what they mean. Governor Hartranft is the undoubted and unmistakable choice of the Republican masses of Pennsylvania, and it is their purpose to believe that he would be acceptable to the Republican party of the country. The resolution refers to him in terms which no Republican can misunderstand. His reelection is well deserved. His record in the field and in civil office is without a stain; his administrative abilities are of a high order, and he is popular as a war or civil governor the history of the war and Pennsylvania's part in it are known.

The sentiment of the Republican party of this county is settling down to the conviction that Hon. John A. Lemon must allow his name to go before the Senatorial Conference for renomination. The people of this county honored him with a unanimous vote when the district was strongly Republican, and now that it has, through the changes of territory and time, become debatable, they insist that he forego his private interests and again serve them. His Senatorial record has been one of conspicuous devotion to the interests of the whole people of the district. He has been thoroughly tried and found honest, capable and influential. We know of no man in the two counties so well fitted to lead the column in the hand-to-hand struggle next fall—none so popular, so strong, so available as Colonel Lemon.—*Blair County Radical.*

General.

The Albany *Journal* figures up a gain of 210 Republican Supervisors in New York State, as compared with the Democratic strength last year.

Hon. John A. Halderman seems to be a leading candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of Kansas. He is commended as honest, safe and conservative.

The Cincinnati *Enquirer* speaks of a "clean Democratic ticket." We have heard of "clean dirt," but a "clean Democratic ticket" is a little too much.—*Toledo Blade.*

An Iowa paper says: "Iowa Republicanism has always meant honesty, fidelity and economy in the management of public trusts, and our delegates should be in a position to throw their votes where they will most surely count in selecting men in the same belief."

It is nearly twenty years since the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop gave utterance to these words, but they are applicable to-day: "While we have big rogues among us who merit the obloquey which is poured out upon them, hundreds of worthy men are traduced, maligned, and public office is shunned by those who ought and who would assume official duties, but for the unjust howlings of partisan compalnants."

MEXICO.

New Laredo Captured by the Revolutionists.

GALVESTON, April 11.—A special to the Galveston *News* from Laredo, Texas, 11th, says: New Laredo has just been captured by the revolutionists, and the fighting is all over. The United States forces have fourteen Mexican Federal prisoners, with a portion of their arms. Quintaro, Federal, escaped down the river with a part of his force.

How Steamboatmen's Bills for Government Transportation are Shaved.

ST. LOUIS, April 11.—The *Times* has an interview with Captain Joseph LaBarge, an old and well known steamboatman, in which LaBarge is represented as stating that some time ago Government freight on the Upper Missouri river for the Government, the bill for which amounted to fourteen hundred dollars. The account was approved by Colonel Easton, Quartermaster, and sent to Washington with La Barge's receipt in full attached. Shortly afterwards, Lasbarge received a letter from General Meigs stating that his account was disallowed. Subsequently General John McDonald called on La Barge, asked him what he would give to have the account collected, and offered to collect it for half its amount. La Barge agreed to this, and in a few days McDonald called again and paid him seven hundred dollars. On another occasion La Barge sent an account to Washington for six hundred and fifty dollars, and received word in reply: "Take half or nothing." La Barge wrote to Senator Bogy about the matter, asking him to look into it for him, and Bogy replied, advising him to take what he could get.

Bold Attempt to Fob a Railroad Train.

FORT SCOTT, Ks., April 12.—A bold attempt was made at one o'clock yesterday morning to rob the express and mail train on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railroad at Bluejacket station, just over the southern border of Kansas, in Indian Territory. The officers of the road had known for some time that a gang of desperadoes had organized for the object, and the company had therefore taken steps to frustrate their designs by sending out a small detective force to watch them. Three of the detectives had joined the gang and learned their plans, which included the robbery of this train. As the train was run on the side-track by the misplacement of a switch, a guard who had been placed in the cab with the engineer, losing his presence of mind, commenced firing at the robbers as they approached the train, at the same time giving the signal to others in the train to come out, thus giving the robbers a chance to retreat, which they availed themselves of in great haste. Two of the gang were captured at Chetopa, Kansas, this morning and lodged in jail, and it is thought the others cannot escape.

HARRISBURG.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATURE

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., April 11, 1876.

SENATE.

The Senate met in evening session at half-past eight.

Mr. Clarke offered a petition of citizens of Westmoreland county, praying for the passage of an act authorizing the appointment of commissioners to investigate the receipts and expenditures of said county for the past five years.

The act fixing the compensation of certain township and borough officers was negatived on third reading.

Adjourned.

The Governor appointed Peter J. Meising, of Titusville, Crawford county, a notary public.

HOUSE.

The following bills were passed finally:

To make appropriation for the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital at Harrisburg.

Making appropriations for the salaries of officers and employees and for the improvement of the grounds and buildings of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane at Dixmont, Pennsylvania.

Making an appropriation to the Eastern Penitentiary, for the salaries of officers, repairs, books and stationery for library, and gratuities to discharged prisoners.

Making appropriation for the salaries of the office and for repairs to the Western Penitentiary, and for books and stationery for prisoners.

Supplement to an act to carry out the provisions of section twelve, article three of the new Constitution relating to contracts for supplies for the Legislature and the various departments of the State government.

Fixing the compensation of county officers in counties containing less than 150,000 inhabitants.

The bill prohibiting banks and banking institutions from paying interest on deposits, was defeated, as was also the bill for the protection of sheep and tax of dogs, and providing for the surplus fund to be paid to the treasurers of the school districts of the townships and boroughs of this Commonwealth.

The following Senate bills were defeated: Providing for the printing of 5,000 copies of an act to enable assignees, for the benefit of creditors, to make sales of real estate encumbered by liens.

Directing the printing of reports and documents for the use of the Senate and House and the several departments of the State government.

The House met in afternoon session at three o'clock. The following bills were considered on second reading:

Act to make county and borough tax collectors to collect taxes for which they have become personally liable without having collected the same, etc. Passed.

The Senate bill entitled, "An act for the regulation of the international exhibition held under the auspices of the Government of the United States within the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, preventing the seizure of articles and goods on exhibition thereat," passed.

Bills on third reading or final passage were considered as follows:

Supplement to the act to relieve laborers, workingmen and journeymen from certain prosecutions and indictments for conspiracy under the criminal laws of the Commonwealth, approved June 14th, 1872. Passed.

An act for the establishment of new counties in the Commonwealth. Negatived.

Act relating to appeals in assessments in the Commonwealth to the Court of Common Pleas. Passed.

Act relating to judicial sales and the preservation of lien mortgages. Negatived.

Act relating to trusts created for benevolent purposes. Passed.

The act relating to judgments and stay of executions, which was negatived last week, but was reconsidered, was called up again and met with its final defeat this afternoon, which disposes of it for this session.

Mr. Faunce offered the following resolution, which was agreed to:

WHEREAS, This House has, by resolution, taken cognizance of the grave charge that House bill 194, Senate 21, the Boom bill, was passed by violation of sections 29 and 36 of article 3d of the Constitution; and whereas, by authority of said resolution a committee of this House is now sitting to investigate charges of bribery; therefore,

Resolved, That the Senate be requested to return said bill to the House to await the result of said investigation.

Messrs. Faunce, Herring and Reighard advocated the passage of the resolution, while Mr. Wolfe opposed its passage and the recall of the bill back to the House, as he held its withdrawal would give evidence that corruption is admitted in its former passage.

The House then adjourned.

Caucus.

The Democratic members of both chambers held a caucus this evening, when they unanimously agreed to and adopted a resolution that both the Senate and House finally adjourn on Friday, May 5th.

The Boom Bill Investigation.

The Boom Investigating Committee continue holding secret sessions, and as they refuse to talk all sorts of rumors are afloat. It is impossible to get anything definite. The committee examined twenty members to-day, and there are about twenty-four more to pass the fiery ordeal yet.

The Senate Boom Investigating Committee met in the morning at nine o'clock, and its sittings promise to be short, sharp and decisive.

It is stated that the Boom Investigating Committee has already adduced evidence enough to send several persons, members of both houses, to the penitentiary.

The session of the committee continued last night to a late hour, and was resumed again this morning. The testimony that can be gathered is only fragmentary. Gross, of Northampton, in his testimony, implicates Embick, of the lumbermen. He said that Embick told him that he had to pay thirty members, and that Thornton had gone back on him. Gentner and Douglass, of Philadelphia, are contumacious witnesses, the former refusing to testify unless the evidence is made public. Douglass refused on the same grounds and because he has nothing to state.

Colonel Quay will be before the committee this morning. He knew nothing. When interrogated as to the authorship of certain correspondence in the *Times* making suggestions and offers of service, he refused to answer, stating that he would not do so before a court of justice, and no more would he before the committee, who would have no recourse in proceedings against his paper if they saw fit.

Plummer's Compliments to Speaker Patterson.

In the Democratic caucus to-night, Mr. Plummer, of Crawford, on a question of privilege, denounced Speaker Patterson in bitter terms. He said that the Speaker was intent on ruining all the men he could by means of rumors and insinuations; that he was ready to walk over the skeletons of the best men in the Democratic party if he could make a record for himself. He had the ambition of a Napoleon, combined with the intellect of a Blind Tom. In an unfortunate moment the Democratic party had selected him as Speaker of the House because of his geographical position. It was a sin the party must atone for.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

HARRISBURG, PA., April 12, 1876.

SENATE.

Mr. Davis introduced a resolution requesting Pennsylvania members of Congress to vote against the Morrison Tariff bill.

An animated discussion at once sprang up, the Democrats insisting that the resolution should be consigned to the committee and the Republicans that it should pass.

Speeches were made in favor by Messrs. Newmyer, Davis and Lawrence, and against by Messrs. Parkes, Elder, Brannan, trout, Dill and Albright. The resolution passed—yeas thirty-six, nays six.

The House resolution relative to final adjournment on the 5th of May, was adopted. Also a resolution remitting the Boom bill to the House.

HOUSE.

On motion of Mr. Lusk, the caucus resolution fixing the adjournment for the 5th of May was adopted.

Mr. Christy tried to make it the 27th of April, but failed.

The following passed finally:

Conferring additional powers upon the several boroughs.

Relating to appeals in cases of summary convictions.

To repeal an act extending the provisions of an act to prohibit the issuing of licenses within certain boroughs in the counties of Armstrong, Lafayette, Indiana and Perry, to the township of Derry, in Westmoreland county.

The Boom bill was returned from the Senate and placed in the hands of the Chief Clerk of the House.

The Senate tariff resolutions were submitted to the House, and after discussion were referred to the Committee on Federal Relations.

The House met in afternoon session at three o'clock. The Speaker announced the death of Hon. Simon B. Ryan, Representative from Columbia county, which took place at his residence in said county at noon to-day.

General Harishorne moved that a committee of ten be appointed to attend the funeral and prepare the usual resolutions of condolence with the family and friends of deceased. Agreed to.

Bills on Second Reading—Act to authorize the town council of boroughs to vacate streets, lanes and alleys, and providing the mode for assessment of damages or contributions arising therefrom. Passed.

Act to provide for the incorporation and regulation of certain corporations. Passed. This act allows stockholders, in voting for directors or trustees, to distribute or cumulate their votes as they may see fit.

Act to provide for the taxation of all incorporated associations, partnerships, firms and individuals engaged in the transportation of petroleum by means of pipe lines. Passed.

Mr. Graham, of Allegheny, called up the following bill on second reading: Act making an appropriation for the support of the Western Pennsylvania Institute for the Instruction of the Deaf and Dumb. Passed. Act making an appropriation to the Allegheny County Society for alleviating the miseries of Public Prisons. Passed.

The act making the usual appropriation for the soldiers' orphan schools of the State was passed.

Act making an appropriation for the continuance of the geological survey of the State. Passed.

A great many bills making appropriations to different institutions throughout the State were also passed on second reading, when the House adjourned.

as to transfer all pamphlets, occasional publications, regular publications devoted primarily to advertising purposes, or for free circulation, or for circulation of nominal subscription rates, prices current, catalogues, annuals, handbills, posters, unsealed circulars, prospectus, books bound or unbound, book manuscripts, proof sheets, maps, prints, engravings, blanks, flexible patterns, samples of merchandise, sample cards, photographic paper, letter envelopes, postal envelopes and wrappers, cards plain and ornamental, paper, photographic representations, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, and all other matter which may be declared mailable by law as third-class matter, and all other articles not above the weight prescribed by law which are not, by reason of their form or nature, liable to destroy, deface or otherwise injure the contents of the mail bags or the person of any one engaged in the postal service; all liquids, poisons, glass, explosive materials and obscene books or papers, shall be excluded from the mails.

SEC. 2. The packages of matter of the third class shall not exceed four pounds in weight, and shall be subject to examination and rates of postage as hereinafter provided. The postage on mail matter of the third class shall be at the following rates: For all distances one cent for each ounce or fractional part thereof; every package of third-class mail matter shall bear on the outside of the cover which the same shall be mailed for transportation.

SEC. 3. That the postage on third-class matter shall be prepaid by stamps; if, however, postage on third class matter mailed at an office shall be less than the full amount above prescribed, in cases where the sender is unknown, such sender shall be notified of the fact, and the amount of postage due shall be collected from such sender before the same shall be transmitted by mail; in case the sender is not known, and where it has been the evident intention of the party so depositing the package to place less than the full postage thereon, such package shall be forwarded and double the amount of deficient postage shall be collected from the party to whom it is addressed or delivered at its proper destination.

SEC. 4. That the sender of any article of the third class of mail matter may write his or her name and address thereon or on the outside thereof, and the word "printed matter" above or preceding the same, or may write briefly or print on any package the number and names of the articles inclosed. Publishers of newspapers and periodicals may print on the wrappers of newspapers or magazines sent from the office of publication to regular subscribers the time to which such subscription therefore has been paid.

SEC. 5. That transient newspapers and magazines shall be admitted to and transmitted in the mails at the rate of one cent for every three ounces or fractional part thereof, and one cent for each two additional ounces or fractional part thereof.

SEC. 6. That this act shall take effect on and after the first day of July, 1876.

The Senate then took up the bill to repeave Pennsylvania avenue in Washington. Pending discussing, the Senate went into executive session, and soon adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The bill to supply the deficiencies in the Printing Bureau of the Treasury Department and the Silver bill came up, and the Senate amendments were concurred in without debate and without a division. The bill now goes to the President.

Mr. NEW offered a resolution referring the subject of Kilbourne's detention to the Judiciary Committee, to report not later than Saturday. Adopted.

Mr. HOAR offered a resolution instructing the Judiciary Committee to inquire what steps have been taken for properly representing the interests of the United States in the suit instituted against the Credit Mobilier and others under the provisions of the act of the 3d of March, 1873, and also whether the Union Pacific Railroad Company has not forfeited its charter, and whether the property should not be repealed because the company has resisted the recovery in its behalf of its capital stock wrongfully withdrawn by means of fictitious construction contracts for unlawful dividends. Adopted.

Mr. HARRIS, from the Election Committee, made a report in the Minnesota contested election case of Mr. Sheriff, the sitting member, is entitled to the seat. Ordered printed.

Mr. COX offered a resolution instructing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to consider what action should be taken to enable the President to receive and entertain the Envoy or Bishop of Brazil, appointed of Peru, who are soon to arrive. Referred.

The House then took up the deficiency bill, and Mr. WELLS, of Missouri, who had charge of it, made explanations as to the bill. The bill was amended in various minor particulars and passed.

Mr. MORRISON, from the Committee on Ways and Means, reported a bill to revise and simplify the existing laws imposing duties on imports. Made the special order for the 26th of April.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. BLACKBURN in the chair, on the bill to transfer the Indian Bureau to the War Department, and addressed by Mr. COOK in support of the bill.

At the close of Mr. Cook's speech, the committee rose and the House took a recess until 7:30.

EVENING SESSION.

The first paragraph that provoked any discussion in the Legislative Appropriation bill was the one appropriating $60,000 for the detection and punishing violations of the internal revenue laws. Mr. HILL moved to strike out the appropriation. After animated discussion the motion was rejected.

The item for the Bureau of Statistics was the next stumbling block. After some discussion of it the committee rose, in order to have the discussion closed, and then, as members on the Republican side could not get ten minutes longer for discussion, they insisted that business should not proceed in the absence of a quorum. Without making any further progress in the bill, the House adjourned.

AN IMPORTANT PROBLEM SOLVED.

Utilization of Coal Dirt as an Article of Fuel.

The *Chronicle* of Harrisburg says: The problem of the utilization of coal dirt seems to be in a fair way of solution. The trouble has always been that it would not burn because it was too compact and would smother rather than ignite. For fifty years that has been the one great impediment, and scientists could not overcome it. Finally, however, Superintendent Wootten, of the Reading Railroad, thought of introducing a steam blast though the coal from the bottom in the hope of penetrating the mass and supplying plenty of air. He built a furnace specially for it and placed it under a stationary engine boiler. Instead of using grate bars he employed a perforated iron plate for the fire to rest upon. A pipe from the boiler conveyed the steam and the necessary pressure supplied the blast, and the stroke proved to be the keynote of the entire coal dirt problem. It burned freely and threw out an immense heat. The oldest dirt was used to see if it possessed burning qualities, and it was found that it consumed freely, the same as the best of coal. It was next tried in the furnace of a locomotive engine and was found to burn equally well. The other day, when the wind was blowing at the velocity of forty miles an hour, a coal dirt burning engine took up a train of one hundred cars through the valley with the same ease and with as little labor as an engine burning the very best anthracite coal. This is regarded as a great revolution in the coal and iron country, because it transforms at least 1,000,000 tons of heretofore useless coal dirt into a fuel worth at the very least one dollar per ton, and provides a way to consume all coal dirt that may come to the surface in the future.

Xantippe.

It seems that the memory of this woman, like that of her renowned husband, is likely to be kept alive to the end of time. She is said to have possessed a very irritable temper, and her name has become a synonym of "vixen," or "scold." It is more than possible, however, that the judgment passed upon her by mankind has been too severe. A more charitable disposition would undoubtedly have discovered in her many good qualities, and have attributed her failings more to physical infirmities than to moral obliquity. The party most intimately acquainted with her, and therefore best able to form a correct opinion, gives her credit for many domestic virtues. It is now well known that many of the diseases to which women are subject, have a direct tendency to render them irritable, peevish, cross, morose, unreasonable, so that they chafe and fret over all those little ills and annoyances that a person in health would bear with composure. It is fair to infer that most of the tantrums of Xantippe were due to these causes alone, and could Socrates, as he returned from the Senate, the Gymnasium, or the Athenæum, have stopped at Pestle & Mortar's Drug Store and carried home a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, now and then, no doubt he might have evaded many a "certain lecture," allayed many a "domestic broil," made it much pleasanter for his children and more enjoyable for himself, and rescued his wife's name *from the* unenviable, world-wide, and eternal notoriety it has attained. Thousands of women bless the day on which Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription was first made known to them. A single bottle often gives delicate and suffering women more relief than months of treatment from their family physician. In all those derangements causing backache, dragging-down sensations, nervous and general debility, it is a sovereign remedy. Its soothing and healing properties render it of the utmost value to ladies suffering from internal fever, congestion, inflammation, or ulceration, and its strengthening effects tend to correct displacements of internal parts, the result of weakness of natural supports. It is sold by all druggists.

TTha&*

OBITUARY.

Hon. William G. Hawkins, Sr.

This aged and distinguished citizen died at his residence at Hawkins' station, on the Pennsylvania Railroad, Tuesday morning, at two o'clock, of the infirmities of age, having reached his seventy-eighth year. The deceased was, in early life, a resident of Greene county, where he studied law and was admitted to practice. He was a Democrat, and at an early age entered warmly into politics. He was elected to the Legislature, and served as Speaker of the Senate from 1830 to 1833. He was also a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1837. He was a candidate for Congress, with "Tariff Andy" Stewart as a competitor, and was defeated by a very small majority. He came to Pittsburgh about the year 1830, and was admitted to the bar; and was the oldest surviving member of the profession in this county. About the year 1836 he purchased the farm on which he has ever since resided—a period of forty years. He devoted most of his time to agricultural pursuits, but occasionally filled public positions, as duty and inclination seemed to require. He was one of the License Commissioners for Allegheny county at a time when licenses were granted by a board of three citizens, instead of by the court. He was a candidate for the office of Prothonotary, against George R. Riddle, but he did not seek the office, and was not disappointed at his defeat. He served for a number of years as school director in Wilkins township, and we have the testimony of his venerable colleague on the board, James Kelly, Esq., that he was a most efficient and active worker. In every position in which he was placed, he endeavored to discharge his duties conscientiously and satisfactorily, and he has left behind him a stainless record. Mr. Hawkins was a man of dignified manner and commanding presence, and yet he was among the most approachable of men—pleasant in his intercourse, considerate of the amenities due to all classes, and warm and constant in his friendships. He was happy in his domestic relations, and ardently attached to his family. His estimable wife still survives him, and one of his sons fills the honored position of President Judge of the Orphans' Court of this county.

ACTION OF THE BAR.

At the opening of the Orphans' Court, yesterday morning, by request of the Judge, Hon. Benmes P. Sterrett, of the Common Pleas, presided.

Immediately upon the opening of the Court, Thomas M. Marshall, Esq., said: The occasion of your Honor's presence in this court and of our appearance here is the death of Mr. William G. Hawkins, the father of the Judge of this court, which, I understand, occurred last night. It is most fitting and proper that the death of a gentleman so eminent as Mr. Hawkins should be appropriately recognized by the members of this bar. Although Mr. Hawkins had many years since retired from the practice of his profession, yet we have an honorable and respected line for his unsullied character, distinguished alike in his political as well as his social relations. He has lived a long life as an honored member of the community, and out of respect to his memory I move a meeting of the bar to-morrow morning at nine o'clock, hoping then to have something to say in connection with the other members of the bar on the proper occasion.

Mr. Hawkins I remember since my very childhood. I came here to practice law, and had his office down on what is now called Sixth street, near the Allegheny bridge, over forty-five years ago. I remember him as a high-toned gentleman of the old school, and Mr. S. Miller, T. B. Alcorn, Clark H. Johnson, Thos. J. O'Keefe, Robert J. Frazier, James A. McClain.

1873—Charles L. Powers, L. H. Hunter, Wm. Gulden, H. C. Bowers, Maguire Adams, W. H. McCord, Fred. Fahnestock, Thomas Williams, James Grier, J. S. Cook.

1872—W. H. Hunter, James S. Young, E. E. Galbraith, Lewis McMullen, Kenneth McIntosh, Thomas T. Wightman, James C. Marshall, W. Penn Thompson, Charles Thornburg, D. F. Patterson, A. A. Adams, Wm. P. Schell, Jr., James Coll, Dotty, Robert

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1876.

THE foreign exports from Philadelphia, last week, amounted to $547,132.

WHEN WISE, of Greene, proves honester than THORNTON, what miracle may we expect next?

THERE seems to have been a good deal of "log-rolling" about that Boom bill in the Democratic House at Harrisburg.

THE scarcity of snow, this winter, in the lumber regions, seems to have made it very difficult to get the Democratic logs into HERDIC's boom. Even at the rate of $400 apiece they couldn't be got in.

THE United States Circuit Court of Michigan has just rendered an important decision in a bankruptcy case, to the effect that assignments of insolvents at common law or under State law are void, if bankruptcy proceedings follow within three months.

THE London *Times*, of a late date, after analyzing the recent yearly reports of the Pennsylvania and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroads, says of the former that it is, all things considered, very satisfactory, and that the company is "one of the soundest in the United States." Character is credit, in all the marts of the world.

THE Democratic members of the House at Harrisburg appear to be great jokers. All their talk about bribes was mere fun. Would it not be well for these funny men to become serious for a little while, and clear up the public business so as to secure an early adjournment? They will gain much more credit by that course than by offering $400 bribes to each other—in fun.

THERE were exported from the port of Philadelphia, during the month of March, articles of an aggregate value of $3,072,353. American vessels carried $1,023,744, and foreign foreign vessels $2,048,609 worth of goods. The total exports of the same port during the corresponding month in 1875 were valued at $2,422,024, the comparison showing a steady and healthful growth in the trade of the chief city of the Commonwealth.

HORATIO SEYMOUR having been asked whether he would accept the Democratic nomination for President, replied with the objection that such an acceptance would be "a desecration of the grave." Such a nomination, he added, would be in the nature of an obituary notice. The objection is a deceptive one. A dead man cannot be allowed to put in such a prote t, and a dead party may as well have a dead candidate as any other.

A LEADING Democratic paper remarks that "we are still paying six per cent. interest on the greater part of our public debt, while Great Britain pays only three per cent. upon hers," and then proceeds to advocate the refunding of the debt at four per cent. The annual interest has been very nearly reduced since 1869, mainly by substituting five per cent. bonds for six per cents. It might be possible to refund at four per cent., but the Democratic House of Representatives would rather spend their time in pretended efforts to stop leaks where no leaks exist, than to attempt to grapple with the financial problem. Cutting down salaries, and like small economies, engage their whole attention, while the millions which might be saved yearly in interest does not cost them a thought.

THE United States Circuit Court of New York has just rendered a decision which covers a legal point never, it is said, before vested in any court in this country. A man was indicted for robbing the United States mails, and the indictment was designated as "D. K. OLNY WINTER." Motion to quash the indictment was made on the ground that WINTER'S Christian name (DANFORTH) was not given in the indictment. But the Court decided the motion should be denied, that "there appears to be no law against a person's having several given names, nor anything to prevent a person from adopting any one of several names given him at baptism as the one by which he shall be called or known." Hence a person can properly be called by his name in an indictment, no mater in what order it may stand among his given name.

SOME time ago, it will be recollected, the House Committee on Pensions had before them a discharged employée of the Pension Bureau, who testified that during the administration of Commissioner VAN AERNAM there were enormous frauds on the Pension Bureau. The statements were promptly given to the newspapers. When Dr. VAN AERNAM heard of the evidence he telegraphed to the committee asking to be heard, but he got no reply. He wrote them, and got no reply. Then he went to Washington, called on the Chairman of the committee and demanded to be heard. This worthy stated that the committee were too busy to hear him. The latter asked when he could be heard. The Chairman did not know; he did not think they would pursue the investigation any further. Dr. VAN AERNAM insisted that as his character had been assailed and the evidence published he should be allowed to make a statement. The Chairman said he would think about it. He is thinking about it still. His name is JENCKES; he represents the Twenty-fifth Congressional district in this State, and is chiefly distinguished for his exalted idea of justice.

THE hypocrisy and effrontery of some of the House Democrats is amazing. Not to speak of SCHUMAKER, who stands accused of both perjury and bribery, and who voted for the impeachment of BELKNAP; nor of ROBBINS of North Carolina, who took a fee of $100 for work as disgraceful in the North Carolina Legislature; BLACKBURN, a Kentucky bush-whacking rebel, is now pursuing President GRANT, and has just boasted in the House that before they were through, they would fish out "the great leviathan," meaning the President. This sort of work may be necessary, but the Democrats will do better to put a man forward to do it who was loyal in the war, and is a man of character now, aside from the rebellion. But it will be a happy day for the President when he steps down and out into private life: BELKNAP in the dock; BABCOCK barely escaping the penitentiary; and ORVIL GRANT, his own brother, pilloried as a knave—this is enough to break down any man. It is impossible to resist the feeling of pity for the President. He listened to bad men, accepted bad advice, and has come to the distress and disgrace of having these rebel daws peck at him.

WE find in the New York *Graphic* an interesting and instructive exhibit of the condition and business of forty-six life insurance companies as compiled from their sworn statements for the year ending December 31, 1875. The list embraces nearly all the companies of any note in the country. Although these companies issued last year 134,302 policies, insuring $305,514,196, yet the whole amount insured under all their policies outstanding on December 31, 1875, shows a falling off of $30,905,872 as compared with their policy account at the beginning of the year. The loss payments were $27,664,891, and the returned premiums, $13,613,930, making the total payments to policy holders, exclusive of amounts paid for surrendered policies, $46,278,821, an increase of $3,345,110 as compared with the same items for the previous year. To carry on this enormous business, with its transactions reaching out to every part of the country, cost, exclusive of taxes, $12,998,118, or only a little more than one-quarter of the payments to policy holders. The total amount received for premiums—$85,908,307—shows that notwithstanding the numerous terminations of last year life insurance has a very strong hold in the estimation of those who have tried it. The number of policies in force in 1876, and the average payment per policy was about $116. The interest receipts of the companies during the year was $24,736,389; which is a pretty satisfactory indication of the care with which, as a rule, their accumulated funds are invested.

MR. J. B. FULLER, an ingenious electrician, has invented a magneto-electric telegraph machine, by which a uniform current, of great power, is produced, thus obviating the enormous expense and trouble of batteries. The machine is now in operation in Union Square, New York, in connection with the wires of the Atlantic and Pacific and Franklin Telegraph Companies, and has been found more than equal to every requirement. The apparatus is not expensive, or of ponderous dimensions, the one now employed being very little larger than an ordinary sewing machine, yet equal in power to more than one hundred and twenty-five cells of carbon-battery. Its motive power is a two-horse Baxter steam-engine, consuming but three scuttles of coal per diem, the same engine being capable of running ten or more machines of this size—the larger the machine the greater its power and intensity. The drawings of one are already finished, capable of working no less than fifty lines of telegraph wires, while operated by a Baxter engine of four-horse power. The connection with the EDISON automatic system, the most satisfactory results have been attained. No less than one thousand two hundred words per minute have been sent to Philadelphia, one thousand five hundred words a distance of fifty miles, and eight hundred words eight hundred miles. No continuous circuit has been operated beyond four or five hundred miles by battery power, but the Fuller machine has shown no decrease of power while operating a thousand miles. So far, the full extent of its power has not been ascertained, and it is not impossible that a continuous current may reach California when the proper wires are brought into action.

DEMOCRATIC REFORM.

The Democratic party sets itself up as a great "Reform" party; and as it announced, in 1874, when it accidentally got possession of one branch of our State Legislature, that it would introduce a new era of purity, honesty and fidelity in the State government, and break up and expose all sources of corruption, it cannot escape being judged by its freely paraded professions.

In the redemption of its promise it has done absolutely nothing. It appointed a committee to investigate the affairs of the State Treasury, but unearthed nothing and found nothing to expose. It has also appointed a committee to investigate the affairs of this city, hoping thereby to immortalize the Allegheny county members of the committee and pave the way for their re-election; but it is a significant fact that, while this committee is pushing its inquiries here, another investigating committee has been appointed at Harrisburg to inquire how many members of the Democratic House have yielded to the seductive offers of borers for their votes.

It is still further significant that the Harrisburg investigation has developed the fact that three members of the Legislature, *all Democrats*, were engaged in the effort to use corrupt means for securing the defeat of the Boom bill, and that one of those named in the evidence as being actively employed in offering or suggesting bribes to their fellow-members, was a member of the Legislative Investigating Committee but lately sitting in this city to investigate the affairs of the Reform School. He seems to be a better subject for investigation, himself, than any subject that has yet turned up. He will be able, now, to demonstrate the problem—

"Whether the pleasure is as great
In being than appearing to be great."

We may add that, if all the tempters, in in this Boom bill case, were Democrats, the members tempted were also all of that party, so far as yet appears. WISE, of Greene, BUCK, of Cambria, WANNER and CONROD, of Berks, are all members of the dominant party of the House. Evidently THORNTON and GENTNER felt surer on *that* ground than any other.

In view of this development it might be suggested to the Democratic "Reformers" that instead of carrying their reforms they had better devote their time to first reforming themselves. They have made a miserable show of themselves in their neglect of the public business in the Legislature, and if the little they have done, so far, is to be tainted with the suspicion of corruption, the Democratic House of Representatives will stand under the just reproach of being as dishonest as it is incapable.

THE greatest crime against human society in this country is the corruption of the ballot-box, exceeding all other crimes in enormity, because directed against all that is held most sacred among men. By reason of their own inexcusable apathy and carelessness the respectable, law-abiding element of Chicago some time ago found itself delivered over, bound hand and foot, to the tender mercies of the criminal classes of that city, who have ever since exhibited a settled determination to perpetuate their control without disturbance. Only a few days ago the "town election" there took place, the most monstrous frauds being perpetrated with the result that the dangerous classes again seized the taxing machinery of the government, and then turned round and insolently demanded what was going to be done about it? The last feather, however, breaks the camel's back, and the whole city is now ablaze with three excite ment such as has never been witnessed before. An immense public meeting was held on Saturday night to consider the situation and take steps for recovering the lost right of self-government. Of the thousands who packed the hall, and the other thousands who were turned away because it was impossible to crowd in, there was, according to the local papers, none whose expression and bearing did not attest the deep conviction that the time for talking had passed, and that the time for action had come. Another meeting of similar character is to be held to-night. Of the meeting on Saturday the *Tribune* says:

"There was no effervescence of spluttering indignation. There was too profound sense of the situation at this crisis for that. The vast audience was remarkably quiet; but it was the quiet of sober earnestness. There was no occasion to expatiate to the thousands assembled upon the wrongs done there, upon the atrocious outrage practiced upon them by blacklegs, ruffians, thieves and tax-eaters. Of them all, unmistakably every man of them was there because there not to discuss what should be done to restore government by the ballot and rid the city of the rule of thieves and ballot-stuffers, but to do what they intends be done to accomplish that. There was no suggestion of recourse to the courts for redress. The futility of that, with lawyers and judges as they are, was felt by every man present. It needed but a word to have led to the organization, then and there, of a Vigilance Committee of not less than five thousand strong, which would forthwith have proceeded, with the order and precision of veterans executing their revolutionary work, to hang the leaders in the villainy of Tuesday, and to have left the others an hour in which to quit the city forever, on pain of death if they refused, of like fate. With the calmness that comes of fixed purpose and conscious strength, the great crowd waited for that word to be spoken. It was not uttered; but manifestly they went away with their determination unaltered, and, inspired thereby, will reassemble at the Exposition building Tuesday evening. They manifested no disposition for hasty action; neither did the San Francisco Vigilantes who conducted their proceedings with as methodical order as that of the courts; and the example of the San Francisco Vigilantes was in the mind of every man present, and every reference to it provoked significant approval. It was remembered that at San Francisco the candidates fraudulently declared elected, and all their kind in office, were given choice between resignation and quitting the city at once, or short shrift of hemp; that the like alternative was submitted to those of their gang whom it was not deemed necessary to hang, and that then the Vigilantes elected a decent city ticket to fill the vacancies in office. Had it been submitted to vote last night, that is precisely what the eight or ten thousand voters in and about the meeting would unanimously have voted to do, and would then have proceeded to do. From the temper evinced there, that is not unlikely what they may do Tuesday night; for never was there in our midst such widespread, settled conviction that forbearance has become disgraceful; that the law is void of remedy; and that the people's only relief is in taking it into their own hands."

The *Tribune* should have added that all this fraud, ruffianism and violence has sprung from the culpable negligence of the honest portion of the community in respect to the discharge of their personal duties as citizens. They are now under the mob. The question is whether they will be able to emancipate themselves.

THE question of taxing church property is agitating the press of the State of New York, and with as little result as usually attends such agitations. A tax on church property, so long as the religious community forms a large portion of each legislative constituency, is a practical impossibility.

It is urged in behalf of the tax that the exemption of such property must of necessity increase the taxation upon other property. Very true; but as church property is, in the very nature of the case, unproductive of revenue to its owners, a tax upon it would have to be paid by those who use it for religious purposes. The choice, therefore, is between imposing higher taxes upon other property in consequence of the exemption of church property, and an increase in the contributions of those who belong to a church whose property is taxed. Thus, Mr. A. owns the valuable property on the corner of two intersecting streets, and belongs also to "the little church around the corner," which adjoins his property. If the church is exempted from taxation, the taxes upon his property are increased; if the church property is *not* exempt, he must increase his contributions to the church fund to enable it to pay its taxes. The burden upon Mr. A. would probably be the same, in either case, and what he gained in one way would be lost in the other.

The taxes upon church property, if levied, could not be collected from the revenues of the property itself, because it has none; and as they would have to be paid, the membership of the church would have to be taxed to raise the money. In what way would they be gainers by the change? The municipal tax might be lessened, but the ecclesiastical tax would be more than correspondingly increased.

So far, then, as the churches with rich communicants are concerned, the taxation might be nearly equalized; but how about the poorer churches, with a membership of poor people, who now struggle along with difficulty, failing, as a general thing, to make both ends meet at the end of each year? The buildings they worship in have, in most cases, been built through the generosity of outside givers; and a tax levied upon their unproductive property would burden them beyond their capacity.

The objector may answer that this is no reason why *his* property should be taxed to make up the deficiency which the poorer class of churches cannot meet under a system of general taxation. The churches, he may say, do him no good, and they should not own property which they cannot pay taxes on. But he is, in all this, arguing from a false basis. The churches are not so devoid of good results to the community as he alleges. The churches and the school house are the great conservators of good to every community. Where they do not exist lawlessness and crime abound and render property worthless. They educate the people into good citizenship, and, in so doing, contribute largely to the safety and peace of the community, and to the value of property. They certainly, in this way, earn a valid claim to exemption from taxation.

That there might, with great propriety, be a *limit* to the amount of exemption, we freely concede. The necessity for places of worship does not include expensive and costly structures which have swallowed up hundreds of thousands of dollars; and the Legislature would not be trenching upon forbidden ground if it should fix a certain value that should be exempt and all above it taxable. But a sweeping repeal of the exemption now existing would subject the less wealthy congregations of a burden they are not able to bear.

THURLOW WEED, the Nestor of New York politicians, has written a letter on the political situation, in which he first reviews the policy of the Government after the Revolution and the War of 1812, when "enlightened and patriotic statesmen in the National Government set themselves diligently to work, inaugurating policies and enacting laws designed and calculated, by reviving commerce, establishing manufactures, and promoting agriculture, to restore public prosperity; while simultaneously the national credit was placed upon a firm footing, by a policy which insured the payment of the public debt. And all these beneficent objects were accomplished in the great productive interests of the country, each acting advantageously upon the other, were soon seen in successful and harmonious operation." After some further observations, chiefly touching the errors which the administration has committed, he remarks, of the spirit and temper of the Democracy:

"The election in 1874 resulted in the return of Southern Democrats and Northern rebels enough to constitute a majority in the House of Representatives. These elements fraternized, and the use they made of their power in assuming the shadow before' teaches a lesson not likely to be forgotten. A prominent and zealous traitor whose hatred to the Union prompted him to give aid and comfort to the Confederates to his son, was appointed Secretary to the Standing Committee on Ways and Means, while, simultaneously, twelve maimed rebel soldiers received from the same source places for as many rebel politicians. With such a beginning, supplemented by the speeches of rebel Generals Gordon and Hill, 15 of the 19 living followers of Jefferson Davis expect to recover by political strategy what they lost by a resort to arms. Forewarned, therefore, of the character and intentions of their adversary, the friends of the Union ought and, I doubt not, will forearm themselves for the contest. In view of the importance of the contest and of the intensity of feeling and effort which it will awaken, it behooves the Republican party, shaking off all incumbrances, to gird on and occupy its highest vantage ground."

WE HAVE strenuously insisted that the time has come when the continued development and general prosperity of our manufacturing industries depend in an important degree upon securing a larger foreign market for our productions. We are glad to observe that this intelligent and influential trade journal, the *Iron Age*, holds the same view. It says:

"The more carefully and intelligently the field is examined, the more evident it becomes that it is not only possible but comparatively easy for us to build up a larger export trade than ever before. The year 1873 Great Britain sent to the North, Central and South American markets, not including the United States, manufactures to the value of about $190,000,000. The following figures will show the sterling value of the exports to markets to which we already have access, leaving out those in which we can now compete with the world: To British North America, £8,619,000; to British and Spanish West Indies, £5,337,000; to Mexico, £1,000,000; to Argentine Confederation, £3,720,000; to Chili, £3,165,000; to Columbia, £3,074,000; to Peru, £2,524,000; to Uruguay, £1,762,000; to Mexico, £1,194,000, and to other cisatlantic countries, about £2,000,000. These countries are all our near neighbors, and have already direct commercial relations with us. It only remains for us to adopt the proper means to bring our goods to their notice, and they will be as ready to buy of us as they are now to buy of any other nation. We can offer them as good terms as they can get anywhere, and probably better, for the reason that we have better facilities for the production of goods cheaply than any other nation a uniform quality of goods."

The *Age* advises every manufacturer, so situated that he can try the experiment, to intelligently consider whether it is possible for him to make such connections abroad as will enable him to place his goods in one or more foreign markets under conditions favorable to a fair competition with similar goods from other countries. Those who first enter the field will be the first to establish their goods in the favor of foreign consumers, and in these days of sharp rivalry prestige counts as a heavy make-weight in the scale.

THE people of this country have got into the habit of thinking that the depression of trade and the amount of failures are greater here than anywhere else; but the following table which the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* has compiled from official sources, shows that, in the way of failures at least, our Dominion neighbors have within the last year or two suffered quite as much as ourselves. The figures give the number and amount of failures for the years mentioned:

UNITED STATES.		CANADA.	
No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
1872....4,069	$121,056,389	1872.... 726	$6,454,525
1873....5,183	228,499,000	1873.... 994	12,584,192
1874....5,830	155,239,000	1874.... 993	7,695,795
1875....7,740	201,060,356	1875.... 1,058	25,834,977

Taking the number and amount of failures as an index of the depression of trade, the United States suffered more severely in 1873 than Canada, and the same was true in 1874. But last year, while both the number and amount of failures in this country increased 30 per cent. over 1874, the number of failures in Canada increased over 100 per cent., and the amount of liabilities increased 400 per cent. This difference will be better understood if the proportion of failures to population in each of the countries is given. Thus in 1873, the aggregate of liabilities in the failures in the United States was at the rate of $5 80 per capita of 39,000,000 of population, while in Canada it was at the rate of only $3 per capital of the 4,000,000 of population in the Dominion. In 1874 the rate was $4 per capita in the United States and only $1 99 per capita in Canada. But in 1875, notwithstanding the great increase of failures in the United States, the relative rate in the two countries was greatly changed. In this country the aggregate liabilities amounted to $5 10 per capita of the population, but in Canada they were $7 20 per capita. These results certainly do not accord with the popular political theory that our commercial depression is in some way produced by this, that or the other "defect of our currency system."

Milwaukee Tobacco.
(From an Exchange.)

Four little girls in Milwaukee are employed by a certain well known wealthy tobacco dealer to pick up whatever may be found in saloons, on the streets and in the gutters at one cent for every ten pieces, whether large or small. Their parents being dead and discarded "quid" is picked up, no matter how dirty it may be, no matter who has used it or where it is found. These are used in the manufacture of both "choice" Havana cigars and paper chewing tobacco. The longer and better "stumps" are unrolled and used for the former purpose, while the "quids," short stumps and soaked and rotted "tips" are made into chewing tobacco.

MEXICO.

Outrages on an American Citizen.

Revolutionists Attack New Laredo

Americans Wounded by Stray Shots.

The Mexicans Open Fire on the American Town of Laredo.

A Couple of Shells Scare Them Away.

GALVESTON, April 10.—A Brownsville special to the Galveston *News* says the taking of Matamoras a week ago by the Diaz party, thereby placing them in possession of the whole Mexican border, leaving few or no Federal troops nearer than Monterey, causes a dearth of revolutionary news. Diaz maintains the strictest order in the city. On last night he shot three soldiers for insubordination. He has made appointments to all municipal offices, but no presidency as yet. He seems to be well backed financially from outside sources, is strengthening his position, and accumulating arms, ammunition and stores. It is probable he will soon organize a force and make a move in the direction of Monterey. Fuero is said to be there with only about seven hundred men.

A letter from the revolutionist Trevino says he met and routed Ardinez at Auasquita, with six hundred men, two hundred of whom turned over to Trevino.

The report current that Cortina has been shot lacks confirmation.

A special to the Galveston *News* says: Laredo, Texas, April 10, 1876—Great excitement here, caused by the arrest of Mr. Diamond, an American citizen, in New Laredo, Mexico, by Pueblo Quintano, commander of the Federal forces of Mexico. Quintano demanded money from Mr. Diamond, who refused, when he was imprisoned with the assurance that if the money was not forthcoming he would be shot. Diamond sent for the Commercial Agent, who protested against such an outrage, but without effect, when he crossed to this side and reported the facts to Major Merriam, commanding this post. Major Merriam, with the United States Commercial Agent, recrossed to New Laredo and interviewed Quintano, who stated that if Diamond's store was broken open and robbed he would not be responsible. Merriam asked Quintano if he stated that officially, or as a threat. Quintano replied that he did not want to talk about it. Merriam told Quintano that as Diamond's wife was a citizen of the United States he would protect American citizens. Quintano said, "Do as you damn please." Diamond was released.

Shortly after a revolutionary party made a move on New Laredo, and attacked Quintano at daybreak this morning, and after fighting two hours were repulsed. They then removed the attack, and we can now hear the continued roll of musketry, and see dead soldiers lying in the street from this side of the river. Stray bullets coming to this side have wounded three American citizens, one man and two women. Fighting is still going on. The wounded are coming to this side. While writing another American has been wounded here. Major Merriam, commanding officer at this point, is sending a gun preparatory to shell New Laredo.

LAREDO, TEXAS, April 10.—[Special to Galveston *News*.] At the request of the Special Deputy United States Marshal, Major Merriam planted a twelve-pounder on the bank of the river this morning, and at one o'clock this afternoon the Mexicans opened fire from New Laredo with rifles on guard at the ferry, and they were compelled to withdraw. The fire was then concentrated upon the gunners, whereupon Colonel Ignacio Loyola, who holds into New Laredo, Mexico, from his twelve-pounder, which silenced the Mexican fire on our soldiers and American citizens. Seven men and three women of this city were wounded sadly.

GALVESTON, April 10.—A Laredo, Texas, special to the Galveston *News* says the Mexican Federal troops opened fire on the United States Government troops at seven o'clock to-night, the United States troops returning the fire with a twelve-pound howitzer, shelling New Laredo, Mexico. There is a hot fight.

AN INTERESTING CASE.

The Celebrated Newcomb Case Decided at Louisville—The Insane First Wife Comes in for Her Share of Her Late Husband's Property—A Million and a Half to be Divided.

LOUISVILLE, April 7.—The famous domestic tragedy suit, commonly known as the "Newcomb case," was decided to-day by Chancellor Bruce in favor of the plaintiff. An outline of the facts are substantially as follows: In 1838 H. D. Newcomb married Miss Cornelia W. Read, both then being residents of Louisville. In 1858 Mrs. Newcomb became insane, was duly tried and placed in the Massachusetts Hospital at Somerville by her husband, and is now in that institution, though never publicly found to be insane. In 1872 the Kentucky Legislature passed an act by which a conditional divorce was decreed to exist where husband or wife is incurably insane, and such insanity or hereditary taint was not made known at the time of the marriage. Under this act Mr. Newcomb obtained a divorce, and shortly afterward was again married and had two children by his second union. In 1874 Mr. Newcomb, who was then President of the Louisville, Nashville and Great Southern Railroad, died, leaving a great estate, which he disposed of by will. At this juncture the friends of his first wife instituted suit, claiming her property rights to the estate, on the ground that she had never been legally divorced. The case has been in court a long time, and the decision was rendered, saying the divorce was void and null, and the decision allowing Mrs. Cornelia Newcomb her portion of the rights as the lawful widow of H. D. Newcomb was rendered. The result of the decision is to give the first Mrs. Newcomb one-third of her late husband's, and charged him with, stocks, bonds, money and the like, and her dower in the lands. The greatness of the estate, which exceeds a million and a half of dollars, and the high standing of the persons involved in the litigation has given it an unusual interest. The will of Mr. Newcomb devises $400,000 to the children by his second marriage, and to their mother, all of whom are now living. The decision does not affect these provisions, or invalidate the will. As Kentucky statute removes all question of the legitimacy of the second children of the marriage, and relieves them from any such imputation.

NASHVILLE.

Notable Speeches in the National Colored Convention.

NASHVILLE, TENN., April 6.—The National Colored Convention was in session over four hours to-day. The attendance of spectators, both white and colored, was very large, the galleries and lobbies of the House of Representatives being packed to their capacity. The Committee on Resolutions not yet being able to agree, the proceedings were unimportant, except two speeches from Pinchback and Smith, of Alabama. Pinchback did not speak as long as was his departure expected, but his speech had a strong flavor of independence. He said that the colored people were beginning to think for themselves, and would never vote again with the Republican ticket in solid column as heretofore. He said the South could never prosper while factory hands were race lines. He wanted no more colorline politics, but the division of parties on other than race lines. Senator Smith followed Pinchback, making a powerful speech in favor of a new departure. He advised that the blacks no longer remain in the Republican party, but make terms with their white Southern friends and hereafter vote for honest and competent men without reference to party. His speech made a profound impression and was received with great applause by whites and blacks. There is a strong element in the Convention in favor of this departure, and canvassing is very hot.

FIRE RECORD.

Baltimore—$225,000.

BALTIMORE, April 9.—A fire broke out this afternoon, it is supposed from combustion, in the paper store of the firm of H. Brown & Bro., 25 South Sharp street, destroying the building and stock. Loss on stock estimated at $150,000; on building, $50,000; damage to adjoining buildings, $25,000; insurance $100,000. Six or eight firemen were injured but none seriously.

Attempted Bribery of a State Officer.

NEW ORLEANS, April 10.—John F. Barrett, Jr., was arrested upon an affidavit of V. A. Regan, charged with attempting to bribe Lieutenant Governor Antoine. Barrett was bailed in $250. The bribe with which Barrett is charged with offering Antoine is said to have been $20,000, and in connection with the impeachment of Governor Kellogg.

Twenty-two persons heretofore indicted by the Grand Jury were arraigned this morning, some upon old and others upon new counts, by the present Grand Jury on charges of conspiracy to defraud the Government, bail $5,000 each.

A Whisky Punch Changed the Weather.

The widow O'Flaherty was rich, and she was known far and wide for her benevolence and deeds of charity. On a cold and stormy evening in January she summoned her servant man, Pat Murphy, to her presence; and told him to load up the wheelbarrow with wood and take it over to the widow Wilaby's shanty to keep herself and the three dear little children from freezing. "But," said she, "stop a bit and make me a glass of whisky punch before you go." That being done, and the punch having been disposed of, the kind hearted widow countermanded the order, remarking that the weather had moderated and changed so much that there was no immediate danger of any one freezing that night. Moral—Charity is sometimes like a weathercock, subject to changes.

XLIV. CONGRESS.

FIRST SESSION.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 6, 1876.

SENATE.

Mr. THURMAN, from the Committe on the Judiciary, reported, with amendments, the House bill to correct an error in the revised statutes, in regard to warrants of arrest in extradition cases. The amendments were agreed to, and the bill passed.

Mr. WRIGHT, from the Committee on Judiciary, reported adversely on the Senate bill to abolish capital punishment and it was indefinitely postponed.

Mr. EDMUNDS, from the same committee, reported a bill to further provide for administering of oaths in the Senate. He said the bill was submitted in response to an order of the Senate yesterday, instructing the committee to inquire into the expediency of reporting such bill.

Bills were introduced and referred as follows:

By Mr. BOUTWELL, making appropriation to defray the expenses of the committee appointed by the Senate to investigate the recent election in Mississippi. Referred.

By Mr. SARGENT, to amend the act of Congress creating the Court of Commissioners of the Alabama claims, approved June 23, 1874. Referred.

Mr. SHERMAN, from the Committee on Finance, reported favorably on the House bill to provide for deficiency in the Engraving and Printing Bureau of the Treasury Department, and gave notice that he would call it up for consideration on Monday next. Calendar.

After the expiration of the morning hour the consideration of the bill fixing the rate of postage on third-class mail matter was resumed.

Mr. HARVEY offered a substitute for the bill, allowing four pound packages in the mails at the rate of postage of one cent for each two ounces. He addressed the Senate in favor of his substitute.

Mr. BOGY spoke against making the Postoffice a self-sustaining institution. He doubted the policy of reducing postage on letters to two cents. Newspapers and periodicals ought to be scattered throughout the land, and if there must be a tax to transport them, the people of the country could not pay for a better or more useful object. He favored an increase of the rate on merchandise, but no increase on the rate on newspapers and periodicals. He approved the amendment of the Senator from Kansas (Harvey.)

Mr. MAXEY spoke in support of the bill. If the Senate would sustain the committee and pass this bill the Government would save about seven million dollars per annum.

Pending discussion, Mr. Edmunds called up the House bill reported by the Judiciary Committee this morning, to amend section 1,044 of the Revised Statutes in regard to limitations in prosecutions for crime. The amendments proposed by the committee, of a verbal character, were agreed to and the bill passed.

Mr. SAULSBURY spoke in favor of the bill fixing the rate of postage on third-class matter, and said that there was a deficiency of eight or nine millions in the Post-office Department which must be supplied from the National Treasury, unless some measure be adopted to make the Department self-sustaining. One cause for the deficiency was the extravagant pay of the mail agents and another cause was the large number of employees in the postal service. There might be a material reduction in both clerks and letter carriers.

Mr. WINDOM said he could not see how the Government sustained a loss by carrying packages at one cent per ounce. When he compared the amount collected from postage on third class mail matter with the demands of railroad companies he was unable to see how any loss was sustained by the Department for the transportation of that matter. Newspapers and periodicals sent from the office of publication to actual subscribers were not touched by the bill. The public press, as a matter of convenience, desired to send merchandise through the mails which should be sent by express, such matter being charged only the cost of transportation. The express companies charged according to the distance which packages were conveyed, and it was perfectly proper for the Government to do so, as proposed in this bill.

Mr. MERRIMON submitted an amendment to strike out of the first section the following clause, inserted after articles enumerated as constituting third class matter: "and all other matter which may be declared mailable by law, and all other articles not above the weight prescribed by law, which are not from their form or nature liable to destroy, deface or otherwise injure the contents of mail bags or the person of any one engaged in the postal service." He then submitted another amendment providing for a fourth class of matter, for articles not enumerated in the first, second or third classes, to be transmitted one thousand miles or less at one cent for each ounce or fractional part thereof, and for all distances over 1,000 miles—one cent per ounce or fractional part thereof. It was ordered that both amendments be printed.

Pending discussion, Mr. CAMERON presented a memorial of the Kansas City, Mo., Board of Trade, asking the passage of a law to establish terms of Circuit and District Courts of the United States for the Western District of Missouri at Kansas City. Referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Mr. HARVEY presented joint resolutions of the Kansas Legislature, asking the passage of a law donating Fort Harker military reservation to that State for educational purposes; also, a resolution remonstrating against any reduction of the army, and in favor of stationing troops on the frontier to protect settlers against anticipated depredations of the Sioux, and other tribes of Indians, both of which were referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

Mr. WRIGHT, from the Committee on Judiciary, reported adversely on the Senate bill to make persons chargeable with crimes and offenses witnesses in the courts of the United States, indefinitely postponed.

After some executive session, the Senate adjourned until Monday.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Mr. BALLOU, from the Committee on Printing, reported a resolution appropriating $10,000 for the purchase of all the remaining copies of the *Congressional Globe*, embracing all stereotype plates, bound and unbound, and the copyright and fire-proof building in which most of the plates and bound volumes are stored. Referred.

Mr. HOLMAN, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported back the Senate bill fixing the President's salary after the 4th of March, 1877, at twenty-five thousand dollars. Passed without discussion.

The question was then taken on the motion made yesterday by Mr. Hooman to refer to the committee of the Whole on the state of the Union resolutions of the Committee on Banking and Currency to regulate the issue of National Currency throughout the country on national money (greenbacks, national bank notes, &c.), and to make it six per cent. The motion was carried, yeas 78, nays 138, and then the bill was laid on the table.

The House then resumed consideration of the bill to carry into operation the Hawaiian treaty. Addresses in favor of the measure were made by Messrs. MONEY and GARFIELD.

Mr. GIBSON spoke against the measure.

Mr. WOOD, of New York, who has charge of the bill, gave notice that as there were but few other speeches to be made he would make endeavor to get a vote next Monday.

The House then went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Cox in the chair, on the Legislative Appropriation bill, and at 4:20 took recess till 7:30, the evening session to be for the same business.

EVENING SESSION.

The evening session opened with attack on the Committee of Appropriations carried on by Messrs. Joyce, Hunton, Bennett, of Pennsylvania, and Williams, of Wisconsin, which attack was repelled on the part of the committee by Messrs. Randall, Hiscock and Willard. An amendment offered to insert an item for a stenographer for the Committee of the Currency was, after a half hour's debate, rejected by a strict party vote.

After progressing as far as the 24th page of the bill, Mr. RANDALL suggested that as silver was likely to become a law, very much of the labelling caused by the reduction of force in the Printing Bureau of the Treasury Department could be mitigated by having reverse stamps, which were now printed under contract, printed by the bureau. He understood that by this means employment could be given to about two-thirds of the force laboring under the reduction, and he asked whether in that way the Secretary of the Treasury had already given the requisite ninety days' notice to end the contracts.

The Committee rose and the House adjourned.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 7, 1876.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Thus being private bill day the committees were called for reports of a private character.

The only bill reported of any public importance was one from the Committee on Military Affairs, to allow General Godfrey Weitzel to accept the office of Trustee of the Cincinnati Southern Railroad Company, provided that it should not interfere with the performances of his official duties in the army. After a good deal of discussion, the bill was rejected, yeas 128, nays 128.

After the passage of a number of private bills, a bill for the payment of certain war claims, applying to over two hundred individuals in the loyal States, and aggregating $112,000, was reported back from the committee with the recommendation that it do pass. After discussion it was passed.

The House adjourned. The Session tomorrow to be for debate only.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 8, 1876.

HOUSE.

The proceedings in the House to-day were limited to the delivery of speeches, to which there were few listeners either on the floor or in the galleries. Mr. LAWRENCE, of Ohio, led off with a speech in favor of a bill introduced by himself in relation to land patents. The bill applies mainly to military claims in Ohio and Kentucky, and provides that in all actions to recover land the patents shall be for the purposes of the statute of limitation have effect as if issued when the entry of the land was made. It is designed to give the benefit of the limitation in those cases where there may be long delay in issuing the patent. He argued that the bill would be just to all parties, and that the statute of limitations was essential to protect titles and possession that every State and nation has one. This bill would be valuable in giving security to titles.

Speeches were also made by Mr. JOYCE, of Vermont, in favor of a speedy return to specie payments, in support of the Republican policy, &c.; by Mr. BUCKNER, of Missouri, in favor of a greenback currency, and against the national bank system; by Mr. WILLIAMS, of Alabama, and Mr. WOODBURN, of Nevada, in favor of the Texas and Pacific Railroad; by Mr. CALDWELL, of Tennessee, in favor of the removal of the tax on leaf tobacco, and by Mr. PIPER, of California, against Government subsidies to railroads, and by Mr. WILLIAMS, of Wisconsin, in opposition to the reduction of official salaries.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 10, 1876.

SENATE.

In the Senate during the morning hour, a large number of bills and petitions were presented and referred.

Mr. BOUTWELL, from the special committee appointed to investigate the recent election in Mississippi, submitted a resolution authorizing that committee to employ a clerk and stenographer, to send for persons and papers, to take testimony, etc. Agreed to.

Mr. MORRILL, of Maine, from the Committee on Appropriations, reported favorably on the bill appropriating $10,000 to defray the expenses of the special committee appointed to inquire into the late election in Mississippi.

Mr. HITCHCOCK, from the Committee on Territories, reported favorably on the bill to establish the Territory of Pembina, and provide a temporary government therefor. Calendar.

The House bill to provide for a deficiency in the Printing and Engraving Bureau of the Treasury Department and for the issue of silver coin of the United States in place of fractional currency, was taken up. Mr. SHERMAN explained the provisions of the bill, and the amendments proposed by the Senate Finance Committee at length.

Pending discussion, the morning hour expired, and the Chair laid before the Senate the unfinished business, being the bill fixing the rate of postage on third-class mail matter. It was laid aside informally, and Mr. SHERMAN continued his speech. In his opinion there were but two things more needed to make this a perfect financial measure, and they were to authorize any holder of greenbacks to convert them into four per cent. forty year gold bonds, and to exchange our six per cent. bonds for four per cent. ones, then specie payment would come without a ripple in the current. Another thing he believed in was an international convention for a unit of money and accounts, both of gold and silver.

The debate was further continued by Messrs. Morton, Morrill, of Vermont, and Bogy.

Mr. SHERMAN said it was very important that the first and second sections of the bill be passed immediately, as the country